

## ***FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET***

**Meeting Date:** May 22, 2014

**Agenda Item:** Senate Bill 200 Wolf Quota – Proposed

**Division:** Wildlife

**Action Needed:** Proposed

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 30 minutes

### **Background**

Senate Bill 200, passed by Montana's 63<sup>rd</sup> Legislature, provides for landowners or their agents, without a wolf license, to take wolves that are a potential threat to human safety, livestock or domestic dogs. The bill also provided authority for the Fish & Wildlife Commission to create rules and set a quota to regulate this specific take. FWP proposes an annual statewide quota of 100 wolves. This quota and take is separate and in addition to any quota or general harvest associated with the wolf hunting and trapping season.

### **Public Involvement Process & Results**

At this time, no public comment has been solicited on this specific quota. During the public hearings on this administrative rule, public comment included requests for the quota to be liberal enough to ensure legislative intent while also maintaining a viable wolf population. Public comment would be taken until 5 p.m. Monday, June 23. Any final adoption will take place at the July Commission meeting.

### **Alternatives and Analysis**

Historical harvest of wolves by landowners suggests a 100-wolf statewide annual quota would maintain the opportunity to take wolves throughout the year without unduly risking Montana's wolf population. In the event harvest exceeds expectations and represents real concerns, the Commission may restrict this take in specific areas before the statewide quota is met.

### **Agency Recommendation & Rationale**

FWP recommends a statewide annual quota of 100 wolves representing potential threats to humans, livestock or domestic dogs. This quota and take is separate and in addition to any quota or general harvest associated with the wolf hunting and trapping seasons.

### **Proposed Motion**

I move the Commission approve for public comment the proposed statewide 100-wolf annual quota for wolves taken under the terms of Senate Bill 200 as presented by FWP.